

SUNDAY 14 APRIL UPDATE

AMATEUR RADIO; A FAIL SAFE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

And this is no boast. This is an extract from an article that appeared in the February issue of CQ Magazine and credit is given for the reprint of that article.

Amateur radio is “an incredible national resource and the only truly fail- safe communication service on earth” These were the comments made by FCC Special Council Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. In a statement provided to the ARRL to mark the beginning of his fourth year as the Commission’s amateur radio enforcement chief, Hollingsworth praised the “energy and compassion and excellent operating procedures” of amateurs in the wake of last fall’s terror attacks, and described the overall level of rule compliance among hams as “outstanding”

On the other hand, he noted, “far too many operators” forget that their signals are heard around the world and don’t think about how their on-air behavior is perceived by others.

Hollingsworth also expressed optimism about the future of amateur radio but added that hams need to do a better job of educating the public and the media “about the wonderful benefits of Amateur Radio”.

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2002 COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS - ZS6BUU

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY

Bulletins around the country Dates to Diarise Emergencies around the world
News from around the country

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sunday morning kicks off with Hamnet KZN at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Wally ZS5WP.

Followed with the national Bulletin on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Martin ZS6MSG. In Gauteng, 145,700Mhz is also used for a local transmission. The time is 17h00 local.

Next we have Gauteng North. Their bulletin is read on Tuesdays at 20:30 local time to accommodate those who are in church on a Sunday evening.

The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band. Please note, in order to do a gradual change, the bulletin is still being read at 6pm on Sunday evening.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Last but not least is Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 3,674MHz relayed by Matt ZS1MJJ in the 80M band

and on their local repeaters, 145:625Mhz, 145:700Mhz, 145:750Mhz and various other links.

Whatever you missed please access the S.A.R.L. Website under the heading "Hamnet News - regularly updated", for the latest news or if you are on Packet, it will have been sent to you thanks to Rudie ZS6DX.

DATES TO DIARISE

The first and main item for today is the simulated Hamnet Emergency contest, which takes place on Sunday the 14th of April i.e. next Sunday.

The time is from 14H00 to 16H00 local. This contest is open to all Hamnet members and to any amateur radio station who would like to assist the contestants. However, please note, only contacts made within South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marian Island and RSA Antarctica will count.

I am not going to go through the whole set of rules as they are available or can be downloaded from the S.A.R.L. website for reference.

Please note how the point scoring is done in an organised fashion:-

Single operator stationery mobile start with 201 - e.g. 59201 etc. Single operator portable start with 401, again like 59401 and so on. Multi-operator portable start with 601, again like 59601. Fixed and mobile operators start with 801 etc.

Please refer to the rules regarding the multipliers for the various means of communication.

Log sheets to be submitted to 40M Simulated Emergency Contest, P. O. Box 50115, Colleen Glen, 6018.

Good luck and lets have some fun during this contest.

EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

Looking at the Relief website, one cannot but be amazed at the problems currently on the go around the world. The list of problems, emergencies and relief efforts run into pages. It is almost impossible to isolate specific areas that we could mention.

However, Afghanistan is still very much in the news. Apart from the search for bin Laden, they suffered a major earthquake and also severe flooding in the north.

Taiwan had a severe quake a few days later, which caused the collapse of two cranes being used to lift building material to the higher floors. This building under construction, is regarded as the highest in that part of the world.

Turning to America, Amateurs in New Mexico had their hands full when two major fires swept through Lincoln county. This caused the activation of both

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). The two fires affected about 1000 people, destroyed 29 homes and destroyed about 18,000 acres of grass and forest.

Turning closer to home, the problems of Africa never seem to be far away. Rwanda and Burundi are always in the news not forgetting starvation in Malawi and the ongoing problems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We are still very fortunate that things appear fairly normal in South Africa.

The Easter Weekend came and went and by all accounts, the death toll was higher than last year. Roadblocks caused a lot of frustration due to Police and Traffic Officials pulling cars off the road to check for outstanding traffic fines. In the Limpopo Province, on one major road the speed limit was reduced to 80 kilometres per hour, which also caused a lot of frustration.

Once again, my thanks to those who spent time behind their rigs monitoring our emergency frequencies.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Apart from listening to the various bulletins, should there be news from your area for the main bulletin, please send your contributions to either jans@netdial.co.za or francois@overflow.co.za.

Contributions are always welcome and it also supplements the Sunday get together on 10,130 and 7,070. It also helps to add some spice to the regular Sunday bulletin.

I wish to thank Chris Vorster ZS6BYQ, the Provincial Director for Northwest Province, for a very informative article, which will appear in a later edition of Radio ZS.

We will watch propagation on this band as winter approaches, and change the time to 4:30pm should the need arise.

Bulletin Ends